

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
August 21, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown Jr., Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb. Janice Fullilove was absent.

Others in attendance: Ricky E. Wilkins, Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; Professor Stephen H. Wirls, Rhodes College, Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney; Professor Stephen H. Wirls, Rhodes College; Bridgett Handy-Clay, City of Memphis Public Records Coordinator; among others.

MINUTES: Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the meeting of August 14, 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes to the minutes, they were approved as presented.

VOTE ON STAGGERED TERMS/ MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Commissioner Brooks made a motion that the district City Council members in 2011 will run for a 1 year term and again for reelection in 2012 for a 4 year term, the Mayor, City Court Clerk, and Super District Council members will run in 2011 for a three year term, and in 2014 for a four year term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Webb. A discussion followed.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Absent
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Aye

The motion passed by all members present.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PART TIME JUDGES

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to add 2 part-time judges to the City's Charter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cox. A discussion followed.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Nye
Willie Brooks	Nye
George Brown	Nye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Aye

With (3) Ayes and (3) Nays the motion failed.

DISCUSSION ON LANGUAGE IN THE CHARTER AS IT RELATES TO THE RECALL OF THE MAYOR

Commissioner Cox distributed her proposed recommendations to the commissioners concerning the City's Charter related to the recall of the Mayor. After much discussion the proposal was dropped.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON CITIZEN PETITION FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT

Commissioner Cox made a motion that a referendum be added to the November election ballot to allow citizen petitions to be submitted to the City Council to add referendum items to an upcoming election ballot. The motion was seconded by Willie Brooks. A discussion followed.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Nye
George Brown	Nye
Marsha Campbell	Nye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Sharon Webb	Nye
Janis Fullilove	Absent

With (2) Ayes and (4) Nays the motion failed.

DISCUSSION OF REFERENDUM ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT

Attorney Wilkins distributed to the Commissioners (6) referendums, briefly summarized them, and noted the final drafts would be delivered within the next few days. In addition to the discussion of the above referendums, Chairman Lowery shared with the Commissioners an e-mail from Councilwoman Halbert requesting the Commissioners to reconsider their vote on Suspension from Official Duties.

Next, Commissioner Brown made a motion that they vote to approve the (6) referendum items as submitted with the verbal changes. The referendums are as follow:

- 1. Term Limit**
- 2. Staggered Terms**
- 3. Sale of MLG & W**
- 4. Suspension from Official Duties**
- 5. Instant Runoff Voting**
- 6. Filling Vacancy in the Office of the Mayor**

The motion was seconded by Willie Brooks.

Prior to voting on the above Referendums, Chairman Lowery made available, Shelby County Commissioner Mike Ritz proposal. Chairman Lowery stated without any objections, the proposal will be submitted to City Council.

Next, the Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Sharon Webb	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent

With (6) Ayes the motions passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Lowery suggested (2) Charter Commission meeting be established after the November 4th election so that they can finalize and approve the clean-up work to the City's Charter. Commissioner Brooks suggested a press conference be held to publicize their work. The news conference was scheduled for August 22, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hall of Mayors. In closing, Commissioner Brown noted he may not be attending another Charter Commission meeting, and then commended his colleges for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Lowery thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next meeting dates are November 5, at 4:00 p.m. and December 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy-Clay